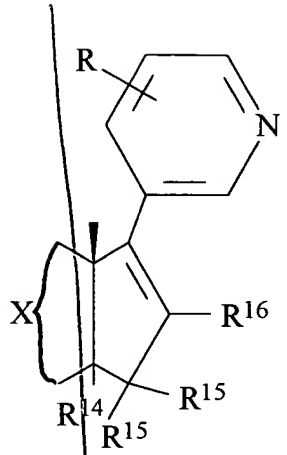


(I)

wherein X represents the residue of the A, B and C rings of a steroid selected from the group consisting of

androstan-3α- or 3β-ol,

androst-5-en-3α-or 3β-ol,

androst-4-en-3-one,

androst-2-ene,

androst-4-ene,

androst-5-ene,

androsta-5,7-dien-3α or 3β-ol,

androsta-1,4-dien-3-one,

androsta-3,5-diene,

androsta-3,5-dien-3-ol,

estra-1,3,5[10]-triene and

estra-1,3,5[10]-trien-3-ol,

each of which, where structurally permissible, can be further derivatised in one or more of the following ways:

- to form 3-esters

- to have one or more carbon to carbon ring double bonds in any of the 5,6-, 6,7-, 7,8-, 9,11- and 11,12-positions

- as 3-oximes

- as 3-methylenes

- as 3-carboxylates

- as 3-nitriles

- as 3-nitros

- as 3-desoxy derivatives

- to have one or more hydroxy, halo, C_{1-4}-alkyl, trifluoro- methyl, C_{1-4}-alkoxy, C_{1-4}-alkanoyloxy, benzoyloxy, oxo, methylene or alkenyl substituents in the A, B, or C-ring

- to be 19-nor;

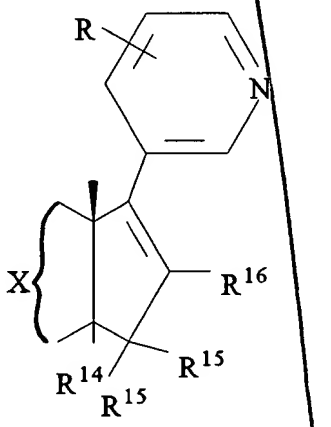
R represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1-4 carbon atoms;

R^{14} represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

each of the R^{15} substituents independently represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl or alkoxy group of 1-4 carbon atoms, a hydroxy group or an alkylcarbonyloxy group of 2 to 5 carbon atoms or together represent an oxo or methylene group or R^{14} and one of the R^{15} groups together represent a double bond and the other R^{15} group represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 4 carbon atoms; and

R^{16} represents a hydrogen atom, halogen atom, or an alkyl group of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, in the form of the free bases or pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts, but excluding 3β-acetoxy-17-(3-pyridyl)androsta-5,14,16-triene, 3β,15α- and 3β, 15β-diacetoxy-17-(3-pyridyl)androsta-5,16-diene and 3β-methoxy-17-(3-pyridyl-5α-androst-16-ene.

36. A method of treating an androgen-dependent or estrogen-dependent disorder which comprises administering to a patient in a therapeutically effective dose a compound of the formula (1):



(I)

wherein X represents the residue of the A, B and C rings of a steroid selected from the group consisting of

androstan-3α- or 3β-ol,

androst-5-en-3α-or 3β-ol,

androst-4-en-3-one,

androst-2-ene,

androst-4-ene,

androst-5-ene,

androsta-5,7-dien-3α or 3β-ol,

androsta-1,4-dien-3-one,

androsta-3,5-diene,

androsta-3,5-dien-3-ol,

estra-1,3,5[10]-triene and

estra-1,3,5[10]-trien-3-ol,

each of which, where structurally permissible, can be further derivatised in one or more of the following ways:

- to form 3-esters

- to have one or more carbon or carbon ring double bonds in any of the 5,6-, 6,7-, 7,8-, 9,11- and 11,12-positions

- as 3-oximes

- as 3-methylenes

- as 3-carboxylates

- as 3-nitriles

- as 3-nitros

- as 3-desoxy derivatives

- to have one or more hydroxy, halo, C_{1-4}-alkyl, trifluoro- methyl, C_{1-4}-alkoxy, C_{1-4}-alkanoyloxy, benzoyloxy, oxo, methylene or alkenyl substituents in the A, B, or C-ring

- to be 19-nor;;

R represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1-4 carbon atoms;

R^{14} represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

each of the R^{15} substituents independently represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl or alkoxy group of 1-4 carbon atoms, a hydroxy group or an alkylcarbonyloxy group of 2 to 5 carbon atoms or together represent an oxo or methylene group or R^{14} and one of the R^{15} groups together represent a double bond and the other R^{15} group represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 4 carbon atoms; and

R^{16} represents a hydrogen atom, halogen atom, or an alkyl group of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, in the form of the free bases or pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts.--

C2

3. (Amended) [Compounds] A compound according to Claim [1] ~~35~~ 1, which [are] is saturated and unsubstituted at the 11- and 12-positions.

C3

5. (Amended) [Compounds] A compound according to claim [1] ~~35~~ 1 wherein R represents a hydrogen atom.

Claim 9 line 1, delete "1" and replace by --35--.

Claim 12 line 1, delete "1" and replace by --35--.

Claim 18 line 1, delete "17" and replace by --36--.

Claim 19 line 1, delete "17" and replace by --36--.

Claim 21 line 1, delete "17" (both occurrences) and, in each instance, replace by --36--.

Claim 22 line 1, delete "17" and replace by --36--.

Claim 23 line 1, delete "17" and replace by --36--.

Claim 25 line 3, delete "17" and replace by --36--.

50